

15-90 Corridor IC Consortium

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Statewide Interoperability Executive Council Concept Demonstration Project Proposal Abstract



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Project Abstract

The current communications environment consists of portable and mobile analog devices using VHF Low- or High-Band frequencies. Base stations are located centrally, e.g., in a Sheriff's Office or City Administrative Building and interconnected via telephone lines. Each county has one dispatch center. Repeaters are used exclusively to transmit signals. The age of the portable and mobile devices averages seven years or more, with some well over 10+ years of age; and the average age of the repeaters is over 10 years. Communications can be sporadic and encountering dead spots is not uncommon. Further, it is difficult to communicate across county lines.

Four counties (Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Butte-Silver Bow and Granite) have formed the 15-90 Corridor Interoperable Communications Consortium to conduct a needs assessment of the current communication environment and develop and implementation strategy for interoperable communications. The consortium will allow its members to move forward towards interoperable communications, when no one member would have the resources to do so on its own. Each member of the consortium has set aside monies from their FY 03 War Supplemental Grant to apply to hiring a firm to conduct a needs assessment and write an implementation strategy within and between the counties. Each member plans to set aside monies from their FY 04 War Supplemental Grant for this purpose as well.

The project will assess the radio communications needs and capabilities of the consortium members, both collectively and individually, and define a comprehensive implementation strategy aimed at achieving a reliable, effective and fully interoperable communications system within and between the counties; between the Southwest Interoperability Project and Missoula consortium; and between all local, state and federal entities involved in emergency management and response. The strategy will include detailed and prioritized schedules of equipment procurement and training necessary to fully implement the project. In addition, the strategy will provide for identifying sources of funding, and procuring funds through grant applications because outside funding will be required to implement the strategy. Detailed costs for implementing the plan, on-going costs for personnel to manage and operate the system, periodic costs to maintain and upgrade the system, and training costs will also be defined. Maximizing effectiveness, while minimizing the costs thereof, will be achieved through group procurement and training. Assistance with writing RFP's may also be required.

The system will be based on current federal and state communication standards (ODP, SIEC & Project 25) in which federal, state, and local public safety and emergency management representatives can operate autonomously and transition seamlessly to communicate effectively in an all-hazard emergency mission role. The system will provide advanced digital, secure voice and data communications for public safety and improve homeland security through provision of the means by which military and civil authorities may communicate by radio.

The cost to hire a qualified firm to do the needs assessment and write the implementation strategy is approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000. At the 9/17/04 consortium meeting in Butte, the members agreed to hire Federal Engineering (FE) to accomplish this work. The cost of the implementation strategy will be defined after FE completes the needs assessment and writes the implementation strategy.

Geographic Area

The area served is along the Interstate 15-90 Corridor. This includes Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (Population: 9,417, Land Area: 737 Square Miles), Beaverhead County (Population: 9,202, Land Area: 5542 Square Miles), Butte-Silver Bow County (Population: 34,606, Land Area: 718 Square Miles) and Granite County (Population: 2,803, Land Area: 1727 Square Miles) with the major populated towns of Anaconda, Dillon, Butte and Philipsburg, respectively.

Agencies Involved

Agencies served in Granite County (GC) includes the GC Commissioners, GC DES, GC Sheriff's Offices, GC E911, Philipsburg Volunteer Fire Dept & Ambulance, Philipsburg Public Works, GC Public Health, GC Medical Center, Drummond Volunteer Fire Dept, & Ambulance, Drummond Public Works, Georgetown Lake Volunteer Fire Dept & Rock Creek QRU. **Agencies served in Anaconda-Deer Lodge (A-DL)** includes A-DL Law Enforcement, A-DL Fire Dept, A-DL Search & Rescue, A-DL EMS, A-DL Ambulance, Lake Patrol, A-DL Cemetery, A-DL Public Parks, A-DL Public Works, A-DL Courthouse Maintenance, A-DL Water Department, A-DL Public Health, A-DL DES, MT Highway Patrol & Highway Dept, and Volunteer Fire Depts (Lost Creek, Ghost Town Lake, West Valley, Opportunity, Antelope Gulch, Race Track). **Agencies served in Beaverhead County (BC)** includes BC E911, BC Sheriff's Office, BC EMS, BC Rural Fire #2, City of Dillon Police, Barrett Hospital, BC Public Health, Dillon Volunteer Fire Dept, Lima Fire Dept & EMS, Grant Volunteer Fire Dept & QRU, Jackson Volunteer Fire Dept, Volunteer Fire Depts & Ambulance (Grass Hopper, Wise River, Wisdom), BC DES, County Agencies (Road Dept, Solid Waste Dept, Search & Rescue), MT Highway Patrol & DOT, Viligante Electric Cooperative, University of Montana Western, BC High School, Dillon Interagency Dispatch for USFS. **Agencies served in Butte-Silver Bow County (BSB)** includes BSB DES, 9 Rural Fire Depts, BSB Law Enforcement, BSB Metro Sewer, BSB Public Works-Road; BSB Public Works-Water; BSB E911, BSB Search & Rescue, A-I Ambulance, St. James Hospital, BSB Health Dept, Red Cross, BSB Coroner; BSB School District, MT Tech, USFS, BLM & DNRC.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Staff review complete:

Executive Committee review complete:

Technical Committee review complete:

Rejected, referred back to Exec. Comm.:

Staff request for project plan from sponsor:

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